

Town Council Meeting January 11, 2021

Present: Lee Adams, Fran Vari, Mayor Rich Taylor, Frank Hill, Ed O'Hara, Town Attorney Tom Yeager
Staff: Town Manager Rob Bernstine, Clerk Tonya Lockwood, Clerk/Treasurer Val Walls, Admin Asst Jesse Cloud

Absent: Randy McLennan

The Mayor called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Approval of Minutes

Town Council Closed Session November 23, 2020

MOTION: Councilman Hill made a motion, seconded by Councilman Adams to approve the minutes with labeling corrections. All in favor, motion carried.

Town Council Meeting December 14, 2020

MOTION: Councilman Vari made a motion to accept the minutes from December 14th with one spelling correction, seconded by Councilman O'Hara. All in favor, motion carried.

Town Council Closed Session December 14, 2020

MOTION: Councilman Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hill to accept the minutes from the Closed Session on December 14th. All in favor, motion carried.

Public Hearing

MOTION: Councilman Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hill to open into a Public Hearing. All in favor, motion carried.

Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2021-001

- for the purposes of amending the Charter of the Town of Chesapeake City to remove the requirement that the town publish a fair summary of an adopted ordinance in a newspaper of general circulation, unless specifically required by State law, and adding other methods of publication.

Posted on website last week, asking for comments to be emailed or commented on the meeting tonight. Will vote on it at the February meeting. No emails, no phone calls, no Facebook comments.

MOTION: Councilman O'Hara made a motion, seconded by Councilman Adams to close the Public Hearing. All in favor, motion carried.

Reports

Councilman Adams: Planning Commission met in January and elected Rob McLaren as chair and Rick Webber as Vice – Chair; Reviewed the action items. Sign Committee suggested changes will be online after the workshop for residents to review. Planning Commission will host a Public Hearing and then it will be sent to Council, probably in March.

Water Department: Interim financing has been approved, monthly progress meetings are scheduled, construction starting soon. Another leak on Mt. Nebo Road. LECCO will be getting a bid for replacing the line, hopefully by the workshop.

Councilman Hill: Reviewed the account balances; Reimbursements from Helen Titter Restrooms has been received. We will be starting the Budget Process-Committee members so far, Lee Adams, Frank Hill, Rob Bernstine & Valerie. The public is also invited to sit in on the process. Accounts set up at Howard Bank for the new Sewer Plant. Historic Committee: reviewed the approved projects.

Councilman McLennan: Absence – Town Manager read the statics from the preceding month

Councilman O'Hara: The County has put up some funding in for Winter lights, Cecil Nights event. The Town will be lit with white lights, to hopefully bring people into Town during the winter months. Would like to thank the volunteers for the white lights on Bohemia and George St. February 20th we will hold an event; **Sip and Stroll** highlighting local vineyards, restaurants and breweries, and tasting set up on the porches. You can purchase a glass for \$10. Thanking Sandy Turner from the county for getting the funds for the Towns to purchase additional white lights.

Councilman Vari: Public Works: on 4th & George, replaced the catch basin hoping to alleviate the water issues at the corner, there was an unsafe tree removed on Clover Terrance. P&R reimbursement from HTP. A tree taken down from HTP. Recycling – Jan & Feb Christmas Trees only. Call MPK for any special pick-ups. The county is calculating numbers for the year, hopeful we'll be leading another year. MML meeting – HURs is another hot topic, technical, infrastructure and climate change are other issues. Snowflakes we order last season came in too late this year, because of the pandemic, to be put up. Crab Basket Christmas tree is an idea for a fundraiser. Getting calls about the June Race, which would be June 26th – will consider in a month, seeing how the vaccine is rolling out. We need to make sure people are safe. Will make a decision in February.

Rob Bernstine, Town Manager: Nothing else to bring up.

Valerie Walls, Treasurer: Starting on 1099s on Friday. Hope to have them out next week.

Mayor Rich Taylor: met with Mayor Amy President MML from Bel Air. Told them about the Winterfest and Cecil lights. A great meeting and a good promotion for Chesapeake City. Mayor and Town Manager plan to reach out to the new County Admin about the old Elem School. Also, the Mayor would like to plan a way to recognize folks that have passed away from in Town, like having a "Hall of Service" Fame. It isn't a one size fits all project; hesitant on doing anything quickly – time for reflection; Could be both living and deceased members Food for thought – no ideas at this point, other than to proceed thoughtfully.

New Business-

Tree Removal – Toms Tree Service took tree down today including grinding the stump to the ground - \$1800 total. At Clover Terrance a tree spongy and infested, limbs falling down from winding coming up the canal. Tree is so bad, can not even be used for firewood. Mayor felt it was a reasonable request to remove.

MOTION: Councilman Vari made a motion, seconded by Councilman Adams to remove the tree. All in favor, motion carried.

Snowflake lights – Sale continues of purchasing two light, third one free.

MOTION: Councilman Vari made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hill to purchase two more snowflakes (getting the third one free) for approximately \$1300. All in favor, motion carried.

Note: Councilman Vari will also check with the Fire Company and Northside Neighborhood Association if they would like to get additional snow-flakes, too

Public Comments None

Mayor & Council Comments

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year

Mayor thanking John & Zach for rebuilding the sign on the northside – looks better than before. A loss when the sign is missing.

MOTION: Councilman Hill made a motion, seconded by Councilman Adams to adjourn the meeting at 7:34pm. All in favor, motion carried.

Submitted:



Valerie Walls
Clerk/Treasurer



Richard L Taylor, III
Mayor